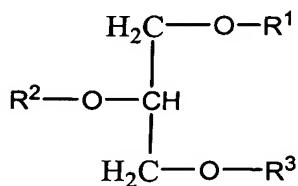


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A method of preventing or treating skin damage, comprising orally administering a composition containing diacylglycerol ether represented by the formula (I):



wherein R¹ denotes C₁₂₋₂₄ aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a degree of unsaturation of between 0 and 2; R² denotes C₁₂₋₂₄ acyl group having a degree of unsaturation of between 0 and 6; and R³ denotes C₁₂₋₂₄ acyl group having a degree of unsaturation of between 0 and 6.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method of preventing or treating skin damage of claim 4 5, wherein the skin damage is wrinkle formation and/or sagging formation, the formation of skin cancer, or the formation of pigmented spots and/or freckles.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method of preventing or treating skin damage of claim 4 5, wherein the diacylglycerol ether is orally administered at a dosage of between 10 mg and 5000 mg per day.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method of preventing or treating skin damage of claim 4 5, wherein the composition is provided as processed food.

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Claim 9 (New): The method of preventing or treating skin damage of claim 5,
wherein the composition is a diacylglycerol ether-containing composition derived from shark
liver oil.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 6-8 are currently amended.

Claim 9 is added.

Claims 6-8 are supported by claims 6-8, as previously presented.

Claim 9 is supported by Example 1 of present specification at pages 8-11.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 5-9 will be active.